

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, MR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT AGRICULTURE CROP FORECAST

ROME FOR FODAG, PORT LOUIS FOR USDEL WITCHER

REF: PORT LOUIS 0673

1. FOR WITCHER, FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA. CROP REPORT ISSUED AUGUST 12 INCLUDED FOLLOWING HIGHLIGHTS OF FORECASTS. CORN 4966 MILLION BUSHEL, 12 PERCENT BELOW 1973 BUT FOURTH LARGEST ON RECORD. SORGHUM GRAIN 619 MILLION BUSHEL, 34 PERCENT BELOW 1973 RECORD CROP. FEED GRAIN, INCLUDING CORN, SORGHUM, OATS AND BARLEY, 175 MILLION TONS OR 15 PERCENT BELOW 1973. ALL WHEAT 1840 MILLION BUSHEL, UP 8 PERCENT FROM 1973. FOOD GRAINS INCLUDING WHEAT, RYE AND RICE 61 MILLION TONS, UP 8 PERCENT FROM 1973. OILSEEDS INCLUDING SOYBEANS 47 MILLION TONS, DOWN 14 PERCENT. SOYBEANS 252 MILLION BUSHEL, 16 PERCENT BELOW LAST YEAR. SUGAR-BEETS, 22.5 MILLION TONS, DOWN 8 PERCENT AND SUGARCANE 26.7 MILLION TONS UP 4 PERCENT FROM 1973. COTTON 12.8 MILLION BALES, 2 PERCENT BELOW 1973. TOBACCO 1,968 MILLION POUNDS, UNCLASSIFIED

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UP 13 PERCENT.

2. IN SUMMARY THE "ALL CROPS" PRODUCTION INDEX (1967 EQUALS 100) IS 113, DOWN 7 POINTS FROM 1973. FOOD GRAINS, TOBACCO, FRUITS AND NUTS AND VEGETABLES ARE HIGHER THAN LAST YEAR WITH ALL OTHER GROUPS SHOWING DECLINES. OIL CROPS AT 135 COMPARED 156 LAST YEAR SHOWED LARGEST DROP. FEED GRAINS INDEX AT 98 IS DOWN 17 POINTS WITH BOTH CORN AND SORGHUM GRAIN DOWN SHARPLY FROM 1973. HAY, FORAGE AND SUGAR CROPS HAD THE NEXT LARGEST DECREASES FROM LAST YEAR. KISSINGER

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